

RANDOM POLITICAL REFLECTIONS.

After one of the quietest campaigns for an important election the Republicans of Bucks county are now naturally looking over the recent field of battle and sizing up the result. Several facts were demonstrated very clearly, viz: that the voters of Bucks county are of an exceedingly independent nature; that the county is naturally overwhelmingly Republican, and notwithstanding the assertions that the present form of ballot is very complicated the voters are "artists" in the line of "outlining" tickets. This latter phase is illustrated in the result of the vote for Berry, the Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, who received a plurality of 1461 over Plummer, the Republican candidate, while Webster, the Republican candidate for Director of the Poor received a majority of 1681. The entire Republican county ticket received a majority over 1200, with the exception of Yerkow, the candidate for Sheriff, who led Yerkow by 755 votes.

Early in the campaign the Republican leaders realized that it would be fully to attempt to stem the Berry tide and very wisely concluded to let the Plummer craft drift of its own accord. The turn-out in Bucks was not due to any action of the Bucks County Republicans, therefore it was not considered to be a duty upon the part of local politicians to escort a crowd that had brought about its own destruction. That the people approved of this course is clearly indicated by the splendid support given the Republican home ticket.

There was a light vote polled in the county, but the Republicans suffered to a greater extent than the Democrats. The Republicans polled, in round figures, about 7,500 votes, while the Democratic vote was 6,200. One year ago, in the Presidential election, the Democrats of the county polled 6,268 votes for Brandt, for Congress; 6290 votes for Brandt, for Congress; and 6290 votes for Garver for Assembly, which indicates the actual Democratic poll. This year for Recorder, Gill received 6271 votes; Wile, for Orphan Court, received 6128 votes; Whalen for Clerk of Quarter Sessions, 6301; Gruber and Fite, for Commissioners, 6213 and 6226 respectively, which indicates that the Democratic vote this year reached its full strength and was fully equal to that of the Presidential year.

On the other hand, notwithstanding an average majority this year of about 1500, the Republicans polled at least 1300 votes less than last year. One year ago Republican candidates received the following: Lakin, Supreme Court, 8892; Wampler, 8925; Poore, Treasurer, 8777; White, Coroner, 8841. The normal Republican vote being about 8900, in the Presidential year. This year Vice, for Superior Court, received 7665 votes; Robert, for Clerk of Quarter Sessions, 7606; Meyer and Stradling, Commissioners, 7653 and 7453, respectively; Blitts, Auditor, 7635, making the average poll about 7500, or 1400 less than the vote last year. In the above illustration we have used the vote of the candidates who received the normal strength of their parties.

Since the election we have been listening to the wall of Senator Grim's band-organ, with monkey attachment, about "one vote not being out." That's right. It wasn't out this year. And it wasn't out last year and the fact is it isn't there to get out. Even Benjamin S. Johnson, Bristol's stalwart Democrat and foremost pre-election prognosticator, has given up in disgust and declared to the writer that "the upper end Democratic vote is a myth." The figures produced above show that the Democrats polled as heavy a vote this year as they did last year in the Presidential campaign and were yet beaten 1500 by the Republican party on a vote that was at least 1300 "shy" its normal strength.

Every once in a while there crops out in the columns of the county press suggestions of a successor to Congressman Wanger. In this connection there is generally linked the name of Joseph R. Grundy. What we believe that when the time comes to nominate a successor to the present Congressman, there could be no stronger name presented to the convention than that of Bristol's most public-spirited citizen, there are no immediate prospects that he would condescend any movement, no matter how trivial, that would have for its purpose a contest with Congressman Wanger. Mr. Grundy for years has been Mr. Wanger's staunchest supporter in this county. He led the fight which shattered the "rotation" rule, and has been one of the most ardent advocates of the principle that the longer a man is kept in Congress the better it is for the district. That the voters are in accord with this idea is plainly shown in the vote of confidence that is annually given Mr. Wanger. The election returns show that in nearly every district in this county Mr. Wanger runs ahead of his ticket. Undoubtedly Mr. Grundy fully appreciates the courtesy which the newspaper men show him, but he is not a candidate for Congress, neither does he wish his name used in such connection.

As long as Mr. Wanger is willing to serve the people in the splendid manner that he does, he will receive loyal support from the Republican organization in this county. When he is no longer a candidate for the honors, then it will be another story; then wire for Grundy!

At the extra session of the legislature the members will be compelled to wrestle with Senator and Representative re-apportionment bills. While there will be little difficulty in framing a measure for re-apportionment of the Assembly districts, as each county is entitled to one or more representatives, according to population, when it comes to re-dividing

the State into fifty Senatorial districts, as required by the Constitution, there is going to be trouble. By re-apportionment of the Assembly districts Bucks county will lose one member. The members of the House of Representatives, the Constitution says, shall be apportioned among the several counties on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the State as ascertained by the most recent United States census by 200. This population is 6,802,151, which divided by 200, makes the ratio 34,010. Every county containing less than five ratios shall have one representative for every full ratio and an additional representation where the surplus exceeds half a ratio; but each county shall have at least one representative. Every county containing the ratio or more shall have representation for every full ratio. As the population of Bucks county was 72,190 the ratio, 34,010, goes into it twice with a fraction less than enough to entitle us to the third representative. That's easy, but the Senatorial re-apportionment is more complicated.

The Constitution, with what seems to be an unwise provision, arbitrarily fixes the number of Senatorial districts at fifty, of "compact and contiguous territory as near equal in population as may be, and each district shall be entitled to elect one Senator." The Senatorial ratio shall be ascertained by dividing the whole population of the State by the number 50, which would be 136,042. Now each county containing one or more ratios of population—136,042—shall be entitled to one Senator for each ratio, and to an additional Senator for a surplus of population exceeding three-fifths of a ratio, but no county shall contain four-fifths of a ratio, except where the adjoining counties are each entitled to one or more Senators, when such county may be assigned a Senator on less than four-fifths and exceeding one-half of a ratio, and no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators. In the case of Bucks county, four-fifths of a ratio is 108,885, therefore we are not entitled to a separate Senator unless the adjoining counties are each entitled to one or more Senators, in which case we may have a Senator on one-half ratio or 68,021 population. Our adjoining counties are Philadelphia, Montgomery, Lehigh and Northampton. Philadelphia and Montgomery have a population of 38,893 and Northampton county 38,687.

There are those who contend and with reason, that notwithstanding the mandate of the Constitution that the State shall be re-apportioned after each national census, as it has been delayed so long, it would be better to wait until 1910, as it will be another year before the law can be put into effect, and then it will be about time to have it done all over again. However, the language of the Constitution is plain and an equitable bill undoubtedly will be passed at the extra session the first of the year.

COMMON SENSE AND GOVERNMENT AID.

The law as laid down in the books is simply common sense applied. Successful agriculture is common sense applied. Money-making is common sense applied. It may be set forth as an economic fact that the government of the United States would go to pieces in an astonishing short time if the principle of common sense were not at the very foundation of its administration. And it is this principle that underlies every true and will ultimately succeed into law a bill in Congress to extend national aid to highway construction and improvement in the various States of the Union. Common sense long ago fixed upon the farmer as the first factor in progress and prosperity, and that same common sense points determinedly to the fact, not to be disputed by any reputable authority, that the farmers as a class are less cared for by the government which owes its continued existence to them than any other class in the land. The Department of Agriculture, the most important to the farmers of all our institutions, states in a bulletin that for the lack of good roads, the farmers suffer more than any other class, and that is this which constitutes the greatest drawback to rural life. It is obviously unnecessary, therefore, to discuss the benefits to be derived by them from improved roads. The Department has gathered facts which enable it to publish a broad-based "these localities where good roads have been built are becoming richer, more prosperous and more thickly settled, while those which do not possess these advantages in transportation are either at a standstill or are becoming poorer and more sparsely settled, and continues this government authority—"If these conditions remain, fruitful farms may be abandoned and rich lands go to waste." One of the results of bad wagon roads is that life on the farm becomes isolated and barren of social enjoyments and country people in some communities suffer such great disadvantage that ambition is checked, energy weakened and industry paralyzed. Common sense sums up for us the benefits of good roads. Like good streets, good roads make habitation along their most desirable they economize time and force in transportation of products, reduce wear and tear on horses, harness and vehicles, and enhance the market value of real estate. They raise the value of farm lands and farm products to the producer and yet cheapen the latter to the consumer who now buys from the middleman, and they always beautify the country as they pass; they facilitate rural mail delivery and are a potent aid to education, religion and sociability. Charles Sumner once said: "The road and the school master are the two most important agents in advancing civilization." Common sense teaches that the difference between good and bad roads is equivalent to the difference between profit and loss. It teaches that good roads have a money value to the whole people as well as a political and social value, and leaving out convenience, comfort, social and refined influence which good roads always enhance, and looking at them only from the "almighty dollar" side, they are found to pay handsome dividends each year. People generally have come to realize that road building is a public matter; common sense declares it to be a function of government, and the best interests of American agriculture and of the American people as a whole demand the passage of the bill to extend government aid in the matter. It is a measure of wealth-conserving common sense.

People as They Pass.

Written for the Gazette.

My this and I are on very good terms but I can never get acquainted with my coat. It always has ideas of its own and these are not in accord with my ideas. The purpose of a coat is to curtain the most and I am an advocate of muscular freedom. Coats are conspirators and have devised many methods of attack upon man's comfort. This one contrives to twist the shoulders and hold us back when we desire to lean forward and another bulges along the spine and we feel over-burdened by an imaginary weight. Flannel coats, these, but their diabolical centres in sleeves. A well-behaved sleeve was never known. They creep insidiously over your hands when the weather is warm and crawl up towards your elbows, when it is cold or, restless beyond an ordinary mortal's endurance, they tumble down when looked upon and wander like a lost spirit, when you would be free of said distraction. It is commonly supposed that a man in his shirt sleeves is very near to being happy, but better yet, to go in a sleeveless shirt and kick the confounded coat out of court.

Through the wearing of a coat with apparent willingness, makes man Nature's expression of patience. He gives in to the wearing of a coat because of the silly whims of women. They, of course, must be considered and insisting on coats, men put them on, not voluntarily. The freedom of a blanket is more to his taste, else why, where women are not, the coat hangs on a peg and the man is happy. Was ever anything good accomplished, when tucked out in a dress suit? Does the cut of a coat favor the dishes of a dinner or add a bouquet to the sparkling champagne? A uniform is necessary for soldierly but strangely illogical in social life. Two after a dress suit, in a man's life, is a dress suit. A man in a too dress suit is not necessarily a fool, but too dress suit is made to look like one. No fixed apparel is possible for all creation. But let us now proceed to mortal seriously think of dress reform. Better for men to suffer the ills they have than fly to others they know not of. Men are dressed slaves but this perhaps is better than the lot of women who are the slaves of dress.

Unhappy would be he who could read all the newspapers and terribly bewildered is he who reads many. The perusal of two or three appears to have become a necessity, and so much so that a school for readers seems called for, wherein shall be taught to detect the illogical and discriminate between possible and probable and above all to recognize the truth in its simplicity by contrasted with various versions of the same story. A really able newspaper reader should make a good judge, even if not a lawyer, as one able to weigh the value of testimony contradictory and otherwise. The question arises, here, whether two reporters, one of serious and the other of phlegmatic temperament, could, if eye witnesses, report an occurrence in so nearly identical a manner that the reader would get the same impression whether he read one account or the other. Probably not. The excitable or nervous man sees more than really happens, while the cold blooded chap does not see all that occurs. One is moved, too, by details that have little importance, but which appeal to him; the other sees the major characteristics and if he sees, too, the minor, ignores them as wholly inconsequential. The pendulum swings too far in either case. The entire significance of what transpires, is not realized by either. Generally, the simple truth does not appeal to the reporter. He thinks of the effect of his version on the reader and is more concerned with editorial approbation than the dissemination of knowledge per se.

The art of reporting has an important bearing on history, giving this subject wider consideration. How far, we may well wonder, do we know what really happened centuries ago? Only a few facts, and these incidents of such importance that the world was moved by them. The significance of such facts, as individuals interpreted them, have less value and none at all except to students of human nature. As time passes, the originally sharp outlines of occurrence and opinion are less and less plainly discernible. At last, we accept both as of equal value as history. Surely he would be rash, who, today, undertook to disassociate what really happened and the recorder's comments.

thereon in Iliad or Odyssey; or to determine how far prejudice affected Herodotus or Livy, leading them from the paths of verity. Indeed, can anyone tell the truth of any person whom he or she dislikes? Especially, she. As to history, never a thrilling story yet told but had a basis of fact, but what of its superstructure?

How common it is to realize the full significance of a remark or an incident by the time of the next decennial census and find the actuality in its proper light. It is probable that the measure of man's intelligence is the degree of promptness to see comprehensively or to at once grasp the situation. "If I had thought of that in time, things would have been different," is a common remark and he sorely is happy who never has occasion to say it; but are there such people? If so, where are they? Mingled with the common run of people, they would prove curiosities and be enviously stared at.

Why Perkasie Booms.

The growth of Perkasie, the bustling little town on the Bethlehem branch of the Reading Railway, is the marvel of all other Bucks county communities. There are people now living in the town who have seen it grow from a half dozen houses to the fourth largest town in the county. At its present rate of growth, by the time of the next decennial census it will have outstripped every town in the county in point of population, with the possible exception of Bristol.

During the past season seventy-six new buildings have been put up, valued at about \$200,000. It is stated that the coming season may witness the erection of 200 more houses on a tract of land lying between Perkasie and Sellersville. With all the building during the past year the supply of houses is not yet equal to the demand, and the frequent introduction of new industries causes the demand to keep up.

The secret of Perkasie's growing success is not a matter of mere chance, though it has the benefit of a high, beautiful and healthful location, with a free supply of water by gravity. Perkasie booms because people have faith in their town. They are loyal to it. They have pluck. They work. They don't send their money away for investment, where they may never see it again. They put it into home industries. They know what kind of industries to get and how to run them after they get them. They do not capitulate a pig in a poke and then let it drift to survive or perish as chance may determine. They look after their industries and see that they go. The Perkasians apparently are a people who know how to do things.

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